

In the Claims

1. **(original):** An aluminum flake comprising
(A1) a layer consisting of SiO_z ,
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (A1) and
(A2) a layer consisting of SiO_z on the layer (B), wherein
 $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$.
2. **(original):** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, comprising
(C1) a layer consisting of SiO_2 ,
(A1) a layer consisting of SiO_y on the layer (C1),
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (A1),
(A2) a layer consisting of SiO_y on the layer (B) and
(C2) a layer consisting of SiO_2 on the layer (A2), wherein
 $0.95 \leq y \leq 2.0$.
3. **(currently amended):** An aluminum flake comprising
(D1) a layer consisting of SiO_2 ,
(B) a layer consisting of aluminum on the layer (D1) and
(D2) a layer consisting of SiO_2 on the layer (B), wherein the layer thickness of the SiO_2 layer is
from 200 to 500 nm, ~~especially 200 to 350 nm.~~
4. **(currently amended):** An aluminum flake according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~to 3,~~ wherein the
layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 10 to 100 nm, ~~preferably from 30
to 50 nm.~~
5. **(currently amended):** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, ~~or 2,~~ wherein the layer thickness
of the layers (A1) and (A2) consisting of SiO_z , ~~the layer thickness of the layers (D1) and (D2)
consisting of SiO_2 , the layer thickness of the layer (A1) consisting of SiO_y and of the layer (C1)
consisting of SiO_2 and the layer thickness of the layer (A2) consisting of SiO_y and of the layer
(C2) consisting of SiO_2 is from 200 to 350 nm,~~ preferably from 250 to 300 nm.
6. **(currently amended):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to ~~any one of claim~~
[[s]] 1, ~~2, 3, 4 and 5,~~ comprising on the layers (A1) and (A2) ~~or on the layers (C1) and (C2) or on~~

the layers (D1) and (D2) or over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (E) consisting of a dielectric material having a "high" refractive index, ~~especially TiO₂, or carbon, preferably diamond-like carbon.~~

7. **(currently amended):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5,~~ comprising over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (F) consisting of from 50 to 95 % by weight carbon, from 5 to 25 % by weight nitrogen and from 0 to 25 % by weight of the elements hydrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur, the percentage by weight data relating to the total weight of the layer (F).
8. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 6, or 7,~~ wherein the layer thickness of the layer (E) ~~or (F)~~ is from 10 to 150 nm, ~~preferably from 30 to 70 nm.~~
9. **(cancelled)**
10. **(currently amended):** A paint, electrostatic coating, in ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, printing ink, plastics material, glaze for ceramics and glass, or security printing composition comprising an aluminum flake according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1, to 5 or a pigment according to claim 6, 7 or 8.~~
11. **(new):** A paint, electrostatic coating, in ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, printing ink, plastics material, glaze for ceramics and glass, or security printing composition comprising a pigment according to claim 6.
12. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 3, wherein the layer thickness of the SiO₂ layers (D1) and (D2) is from 200 to 350 nm.
13. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 30 to 50 nm.
14. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 3, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (B) consisting of aluminum is from 10 to 100 nm.

15. **(new):** An aluminum flake according to claim 2, wherein the layer thickness of the layers (A1) and (A2) consisting of SiO_y , and the layer thickness of the layers (C1) and (C2) consisting of SiO_2 is from 200 to 350 nm.
16. **(new):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 6, wherein the layer (E) consists of TiO_2 or carbon.
17. **(new):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 2, comprising on the layers (A1) and (A2) or on the layers (C1) and (C2) or on the layers (D1) and (D2) or over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (E) consisting of a dielectric material having a "high" refractive index.
18. **(new):** A pigment based on the aluminum flakes according to claim 2, comprising over the entire surface of the aluminum flakes a layer (F) consisting of from 50 to 95 % by weight carbon, from 5 to 25 % by weight nitrogen and from 0 to 25 % by weight of the elements hydrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur, the percentage by weight data relating to the total weight of the layer (F).
19. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 6, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (E) is from 30 to 70 nm:
20. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 7, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (F) is from 10 to 150 nm.
21. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 7, wherein the layer thickness of the layer (F) is from from 30 to 70 nm.